



Asia-Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center Monthly IED Activity Report



DOI: 30 September 2019

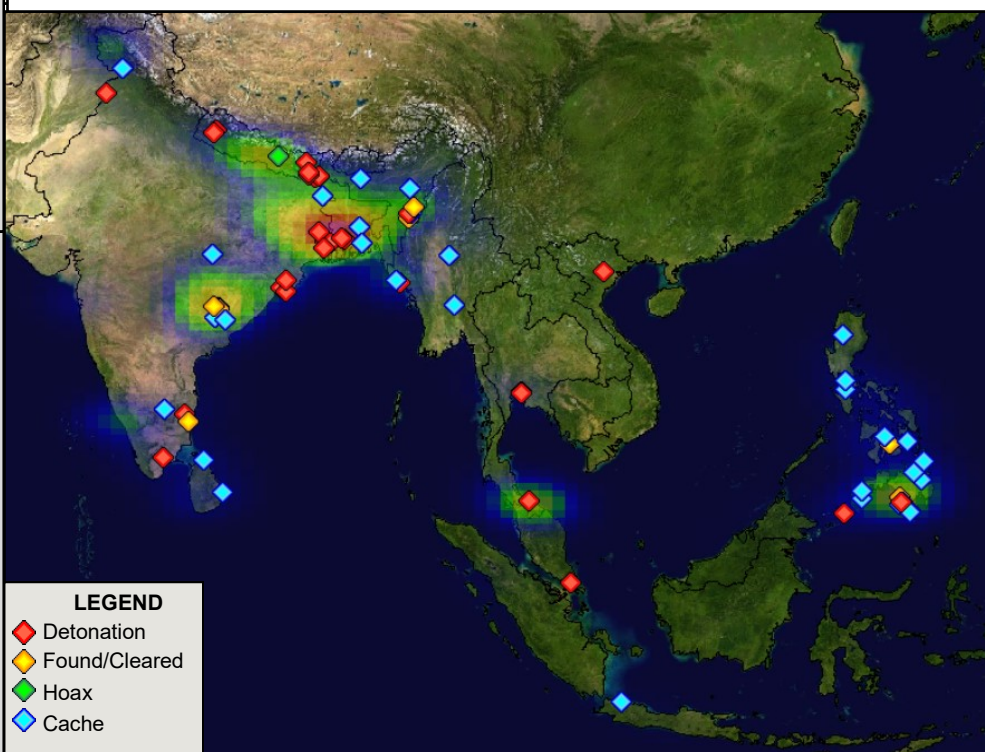
APCFC Assessment

In September, IED activity in the Indo-Pacific decreased by 25% (77 events versus 103). IED activity in India decreased, likely due to heightened security measures in the Jammu and Kashmir region which has temporarily suppressed politically motivated violence. This month, India experienced 31 IED events compared to 38 in August.

Month at a Glance — September

The Indo-Pacific region experienced 77 IED events in September: 47 events in South Asia, 30 events in Southeast Asia, and no events in Northeast Asia. These events consisted of 123 devices. In total, there were 29 IED detonation events, 8 IED found and cleared events, three hoax IED events, and 37 IED cache events. There were 23 casualties: one civilian killed, 16 civilians wounded, and six Police, Military, Government (PMG) wounded.

There were 77 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in September 2019



Icons depict events for September 2019; heat map depicts event density from September 2018—September 2019

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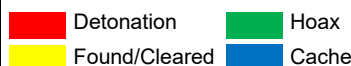
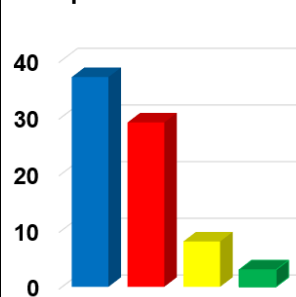
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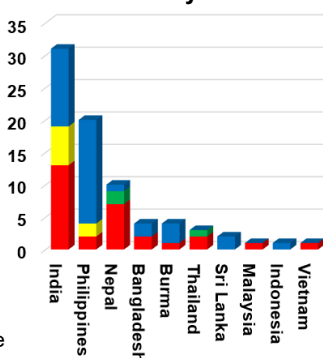
LEGEND

- ◆ Detonation
- ◆ Found/Cleared
- ◆ Hoax
- ◆ Cache

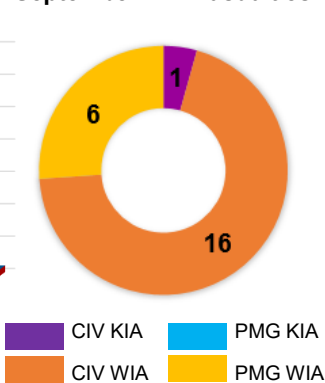
September IED events



September IED events by Country



September IED Casualties



[SUBSCRIBE](#) [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

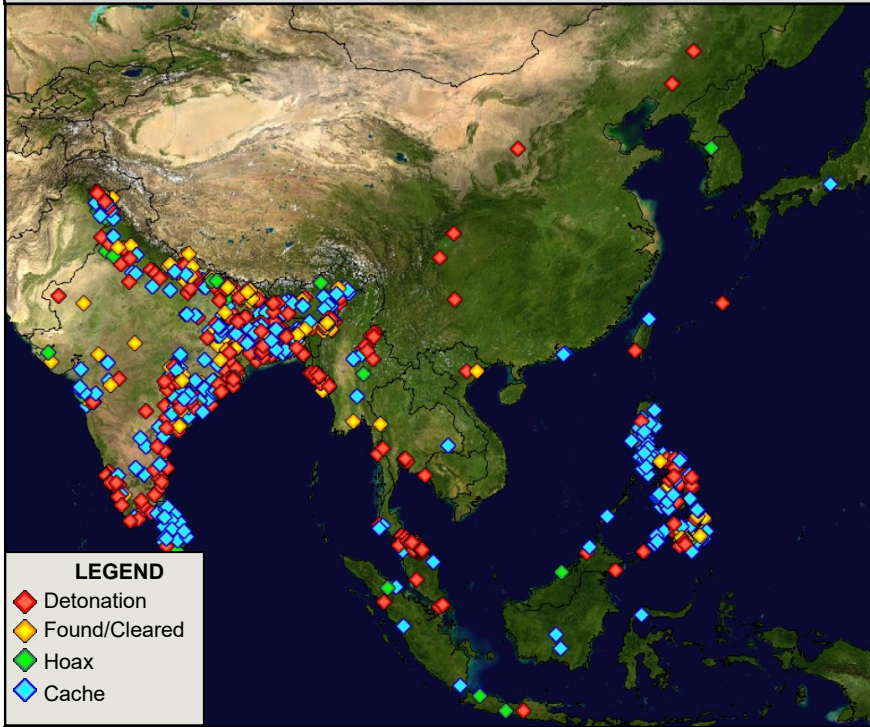
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Click on an entry to advance to the associated page.

This document is intended for those personnel performing military, intelligence, law enforcement, or security duties in support of C-IED operations.

Indo-Pacific IED Events - Past 13 Months

There were 1,369 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in the past 13 months

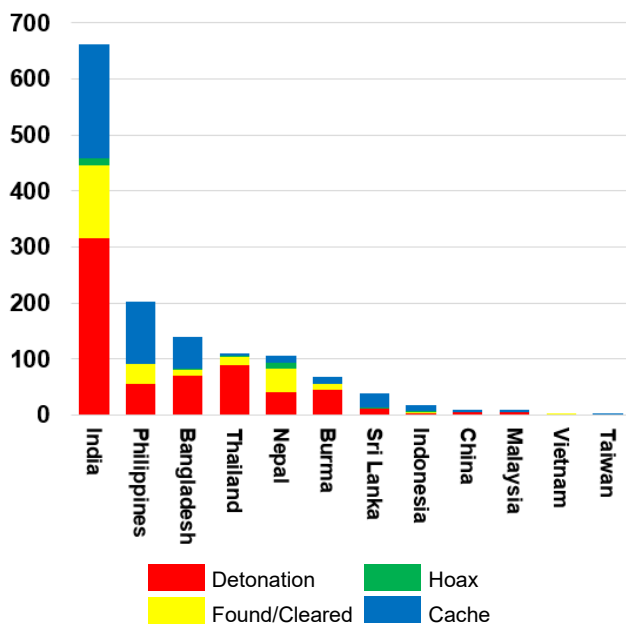


Icons depict events from September 2018 to September 2019; occasional overlap occurs

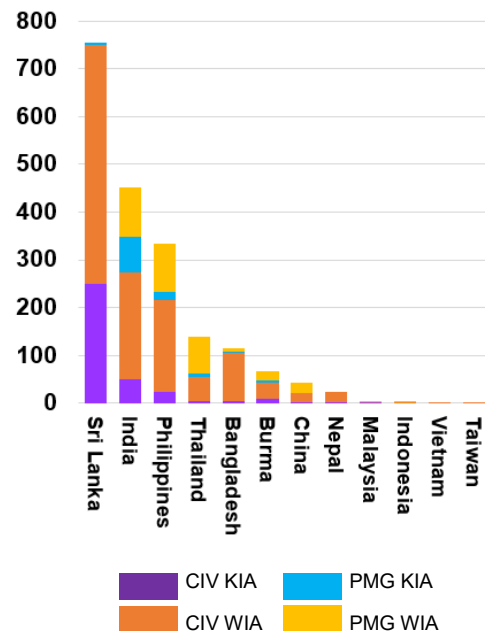
APCFC Assessment

Over the past year, 1,369 IED events occurred in the Indo-Pacific region with a total of 1,940 casualties from those events. There were 646 IED detonations, 243 IED found and cleared events, 35 IED hoax events, and 445 IED cache events. Throughout the year there were 349 civilians killed, 1,146 civilians wounded, 109 Police, Military, Government (PMG) forces killed, and 336 PMG wounded. On a typical year India usually has the highest number of IED events and casualties, followed by the Philippines.

Past Year IED events by Country

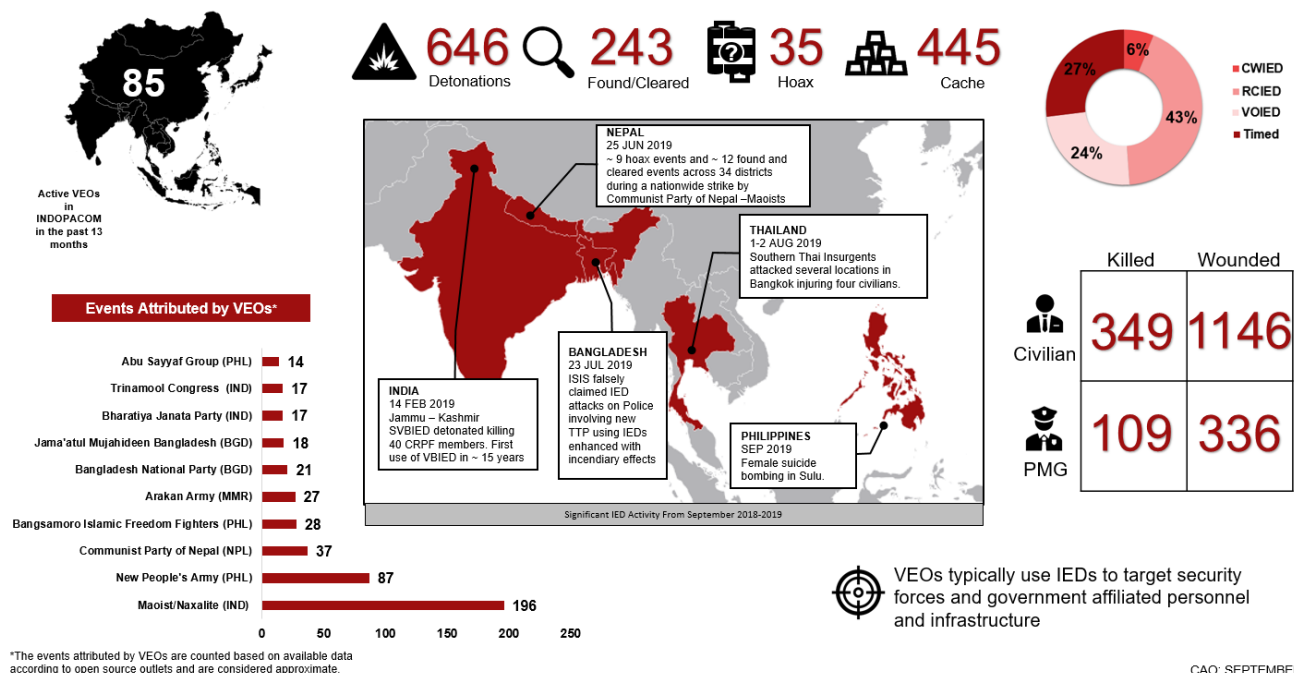


Past Year Casualties by Country



NOTE: The APCFC Monthly IED report includes both event counts (detonation, found/cleared, hoax, and cache) and device counts. It is important to note that a singular IED event may include multiple devices. For instance, a single IED cache event may contain several devices.

IED Activity - Past 13 Months



Incident Highlight: Third Suicide Bombing of 2019 in Philippines

On 8 September, a female suicide bomber detonated a PBIED targeting a Philippine Army checkpoint in Indanan, Sulu. The bombing resulted in a single casualty, the death of the suicide bomber. Witnesses reported the attacker was female, based on her Muslim-style dress, long hair, and Muslim head cover (abayya or hijab). The attacker also appeared to be pregnant because of a bulge in her midsection (this appearance was possibly caused by the protruding PBIED). As she approached the checkpoint at Kilometer 3 in Kjataian barangay, soldiers on guard duty ordered her to stop advancing. She defied their orders and called out "Allahu Akbar" before detonation. Soldiers reported observing the attacker holding the "trigger mechanism" (switch), therefore they can confidently conclude the attack was a suicide bombing.



On 16 September, DNA testing of the suspect's remains confirmed the attacker was female. This is the second instance of a female suicide bomber carrying out an attack in the Philippines. Although the nationality of the attacker remains unknown, Army officials stated her skin and remains of her face appeared Caucasian or foreign. Notably, this past July security officials warned of the presence of an Egyptian husband and wife couple plotting to conduct a suicide bombing in Sulu.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) stated the Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan group of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) was responsible for the PBIED attack, which is the third such attack in Sulu Province in 2019 attributed to ASG. Although Sawadjaan is widely believed to be the de facto leader of ISIS Philippines, he continues to position himself to be officially designated as emir in Southeast Asia. High profile terrorist attacks perpetrated by Sawadjaan's group over the past year (i.e., suicide bombings) will bolster his candidacy with ISIS leadership.



Sources: Rappler (9/9/19) Journal Online Philippines (9/9/19) Manila Times (9/17/19)

Special Assessment: Recent Unrest in Papua and West Papua

Papuans have been struggling for independence and self-determination for over half a century against the Indonesian government who, through its military and police forces, continues to bolster its global economic relevance within the region. Although Papuan independence and resistance movements have not succeeded logistically at maintaining a significant and protracted armed struggle against the Indonesian military or police forces, Papuan efforts for independence continue and appear to remain largely symbolic.

In an ongoing series of recent violent protests that began on 15 August, thousands of Papuans and their supporters have held protests in large cities across Indonesia, torching government buildings and clashing with police and counter protestors, resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries. The recent and ongoing escalation in violence is the most serious civil unrest the region has experienced in years.

Initial reports indicated at least six protesters and one soldier killed during the clashes in Indonesia's Papua and West Papua provinces when the unrest began. A group of students in the province of East Java allegedly tore down an Indonesian flag before retreating into a dormitory, triggering the unrest. Police responded to the incident by firing tear gas into the building and arresting 43 students. The event escalated when angry mobs gathered outside the dorm and reportedly chanted racist anti-Papuan slogans. Subsequent reports of police brutality against the group of Papuan students began circulating on social media immediately following the incident, and appears to have further fueled a wave of violent protests.

On 28 August, news media sources including local news outlet, Suara Papua, and international news outlet, Al Jazeera, reported the deaths by quoting locals who say they witnessed the killings. On the morning of August 29, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported on the killings, but said at least two, not six, protesters killed. Reports continue to be difficult to verify as Indonesia rarely allows foreign media access to West Papua. Information coming from the region has been sparse due to government-directed internet blackouts.



Protesters in Papua, SEP 2019



Burning Buildings in Papua, SEP 2019

On 2 September, a video emerged of police-backed armed militias firing on peaceful protesters in student dormitories. Recent reports confirmed one student killed in the attack and two others shot. In another video that circulated, Indonesian soldiers appear to be giving orders to Indonesian vigilante groups, who Papuan protesters allege are being encouraged by security forces to attack Papuans.

In response to the unrest, Indonesian authorities blocked internet access and deployed over 6,000 troops to the region. Indonesian President Joko Widodo publicly appealed for calm in the region and said he would invite prominent Papuans to his palace in the

wake of the protests, but defended the internet blackout, saying the blackout was for the sake of the national interest. Also, Indonesia's National Police Chief, Tito Karnavian, indicated "foreign factors" were involved in the unrest but provided no further information due to an ongoing investigation.

Historically, political control of the region, which makes up the western part of the island of New Guinea to Australia's north, has been contested for more than half a century. Formerly the Dutch retained the Netherlands New Guinea, Papua after Indonesian independence in 1945, but the province was annexed by Jakarta in 1963. Indonesia formalized its control over West Papua in 1969 when the Indonesian military hand-picked 1,025 of West Papua's population and compelled them into publicly voting in favor of the takeover under a UN-supervised, but undemocratic, process known as the Act of Free Choice.

Special Assessment: Recent Unrest in Papua and West Papua

In 1963, Papuans formed an umbrella organization, known as the Free Papua Movement (OPM) to resist Indonesian rule and fight for independence. Over the last several decades, Papuans have taken to the streets to demand independence, and incidents of armed resistance to Indonesian rule in the provinces of Papua and West Papua have occurred periodically. However, these latest protests are not only the largest held in the region in years, they have also uncharacteristically drawn support from across Indonesia and internationally. Recent protests were held in at least 30 cities across multiple islands, including cities in Australia where Papuan communities exist.



OPM Flag

Moving forward, protests and conflict in the region are likely to continue. The self-determination and establishment of a sovereign West Papua will mean that Indonesia will lose billions of dollars in natural resource revenues, an unlikely scenario for the near-term. Based on historical and current evidence, the most likely near-term scenario will be preservation of the status quo by the Indonesian government with Papuans continuing to struggle for their independence.



Protesters in West Papua, SEP 2019



Sources: The Guardian (8/28/2019) Suara Papua (8/28/2019) Al Jazeera (8/28/2019) Australian Broadcasting Corporation (8/29/2019) The Diplomat (9/3/2019) Australian Broadcasting Corporation (9/4/2019)

Person of Interest / VEO of Interest

POI: Mohammad Masood Azhar Alvi

ALIAS: Masood Azhar; Masud Azhar; Wali Adam Isah; Wali Adam Esah **ROLE:** Leader of JeM **AOR:** Pakistan and India **STATUS:** Reportedly bedridden in Pakistan **AFFILIATION:** JeM, al-Qa'ida (AQ), Taliban **AGE:** 51, 1968

Masood Azhar is the founder and leader of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Azhar was born in Bahawalpur, Punjab Province, Pakistan in 1968. Azhar studied at Jamia Uloom ul Islamia, a leading Islamic school in Karachi. During his studies in Karachi, Azhar became involved with Harkat-ul-Ansar (HuA), a Pakistan-based Islamic militant group operating primarily in Jammu/Kashmir. In September 2019, Azhar was released from a Pakistani Army hospital in Rawalpindi where he was in protective custody and had received treatment for renal failure since October 2018. Azhar is believed to be currently living somewhere in Pakistan.



Azhar has been involved in terror-related activity for over 25 years. Azhar's activities include support to Somalia-based AQ affiliates as well as participating in JeM financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or attack operations. Azhar is associated with multiple complex IED attacks through-out India. To include the 2001 Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2016 attack on an Indian airbase in Pathankot. In 2017, Azhar also called for JeM followers "to do something" for the "sacrifices" of the "Myanmar Muslims."

Azhar's jihad campaign continued in February 2019 when he authorized JeM to conduct a VBIED attack on a convoy of vehicles in Pulwama District, Jammu/Kashmir India, causing the death of 44 Indian Central Reserve Police Force personnel. These actions led to the United Nations designating Azhar a terrorist in May 2019, resulting in the freezing of his assets and restrictions on his travel.

With Azhar being bedridden with a "terminal illness", it remains unclear how long he will be able to effectively lead JeM or represent the terrorist organization at the Pakistan-sponsored United Jihad Council. In the near-term however, Azhar will likely continue to use audio messages and his previously authored books on jihad to influence and motivate JeM followers to conduct IED attacks in India.

Sources: Hindustan Times (12/9/08) Treasury (11/4/10) News18 (9/12/17) Indian Express (9/12/17) Eurasia Review (10/11/17) Time of India (2/17/19) Economic Times (3/2/19) News 18 (9/9/19) BBC (2/15/19)

VEO: Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) in India

ALIAS: N/A **FOUNDED:** 1998 **LEADER:** Ranjit Singh Neeta (Alias: Neeta) **AREA:** Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and New Delhi, India

Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) is a pro-Khalistan militant group, whose aim is to create a separate country in the Punjab region to serve as a homeland for Sikhs (known as Khalistan). KZF is one of several pro-Khalistani separatist groups known for conducting acts of terrorism against the Indian government. Other groups include Babbar Khalsa International, Khalistan Commando Force, Khalistan Liberation Force, Bhindranwala Tigers Force of Khalistan, and International Sikh Youth Federation. Officials have linked the KZF to IED attacks targeting trains and buses in Jammu and Kashmir (between 1988 and 1999), and the killing of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Devinder Sharma. The KZF reportedly has close links with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, and is committed to joint action with Jammu and Kashmir terrorist groups, notably the Hizbul Mujahideen.



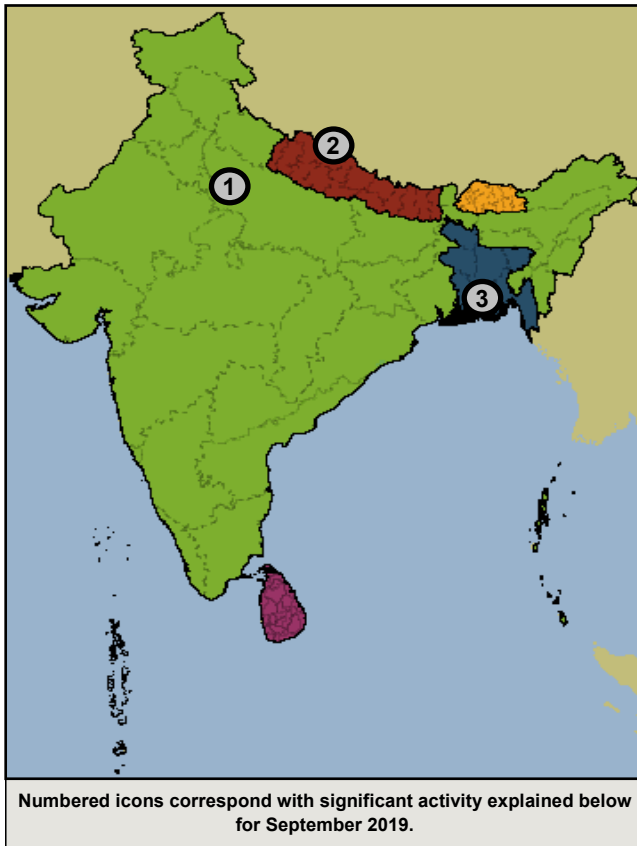
KZF Crest

The KZF has been largely inactive since the early 1990s, but has occasionally made its presence felt in India by carrying out strikes on Indian targets in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and New Delhi. The strength and operational capabilities of the KZF are currently unknown; however, officials suspect that over recent years they have been coordinating with militant groups operating out of Jammu and Kashmir. In September, several KZF were allegedly involved in a premature IED detonation while constructing a device (see pg. 9 on India page). An investigation into this event resulted in the uncovering of a sUAS smuggling operation involving members of the group (see pg. 9 on India page).

KZF leader, Ranjit Singh Neeta, is among India's 20 most wanted criminals. Authorities believe he is currently residing in Lahore, the capital of the Pakistani province of Punjab.

Sources: Times of India (8/7/19) New World Summit (9/7/19)

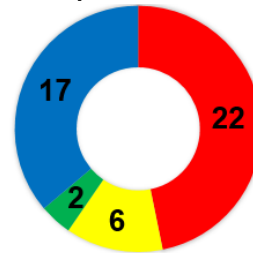
South Asia Highlights



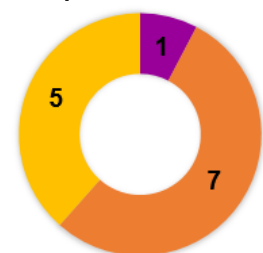
South Asia September Executive Summary

IED activity decreased in September from the previous month (47 events versus 61 events). In India, IED activity decreased from 38 events in August to 31 events in September. Despite this decrease, IED casualties remained the same from the previous month (12 casualties in September and 12 in August). In India, IED activity in India decreased, likely due to heightened security measures in the Jammu and Kashmir region which has temporarily suppressed politically motivated violence, resulting in the lowest IED activity levels this year. Elsewhere in South Asia, IED activity in Nepal decreased from August (11 events versus 10 events) and there were no IED casualties in September, compared to four last month. In Bangladesh, IED activity decreased from six events in August to four events in September with a total of one IED casualty (compared to two in August).

South Asia IED Events
September 2019



South Asia Casualties
September 2019



■ Detonation ■ Hoax ■ CIV KIA ■ PMG KIA
■ Found/Cleared ■ Cache ■ CIV WIA ■ PMG WIA

South Asia September Significant Activity

① On 24 September, police seized a sUAS in Chabal Kalan, Tarn Taran District. The sUAS has been linked to operations that were conducted to deliver arms and ammunition from Pakistan to terrorists, supplying them with equipment needed to conduct terror attacks in Punjab. According to reporting, the deliveries were made between 6-16 September to members of the KZF (for more information on KZF see VOI). The detained terrorists attempted to burn the sUAS prior to the seizure of the device but were unsuccessful in their attempts. Police also reported in September the recovery of an additional sUAS that occurred on 13 August in Mahawa Village, Amritsar District. This sUAS was also linked to KZF members conducting cross border weapons smuggling operations in India. The sUAS recovered on 13 August was a Tarot 680 Pro. According to the manufacturer's website, this is a hexacopter with a maximum payload of 2.5kg. **India Today (9/25/19) Times of India (9/28/19)**

② In September, India's Prime Minister Modi and Nepal's Prime Minister Oli inaugurated the first cross-border petroleum pipeline project in South Asia. The 69 km long pipeline will vastly improve the ability of Nepal to receive oil from India, its sole oil supplier, imported since 1973 via highway oil tanker trucks to the landlocked country. The project was completed in 15 months, half the time originally estimated for completion, unlike many such large infrastructure projects. The pipeline is expected to transport two million metric tons of oil per year at a less expensive rate, saving an estimated 8.7 million USD annually. The pipeline India funded for 45 million USD also benefits India's strategic goals to increase its influence and ties to Nepal. Nepal will also likely consider how to guarantee the safety of such important new public infrastructure. VEOs have often targeted oil pipelines in other countries, and Nepal-based VEOs have routinely targeted cell towers and hydroelectric dams, and in May 2019, set fire to a truck carrying building materials for the pipeline. **The Hindu Business Line (9/10/19) Reuters (9/10/19) The Himalayan Times (5/27/19)**

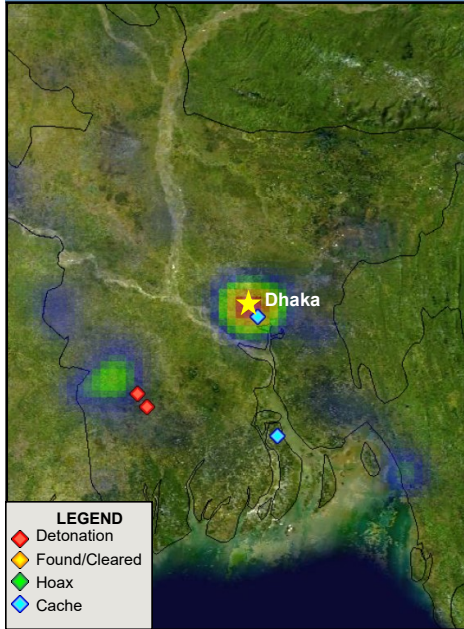
③ Bangladesh counterterrorism authorities continued to pursue and arrest Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) alias Ansar al Islam members in September, which led to an important discovery about funding. The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit arrested two ABT members in Dhaka who were part of a five-member cell that used cryptocurrency to hide and raise funds. **Daily Star (9/26/19)**

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Bangladesh

Total IED Events: 4 Detonation: 2 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 0 Cache: 2
Total Casualties: 1 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 PMG KIA: 0 PMG WIA: 1

September
2019



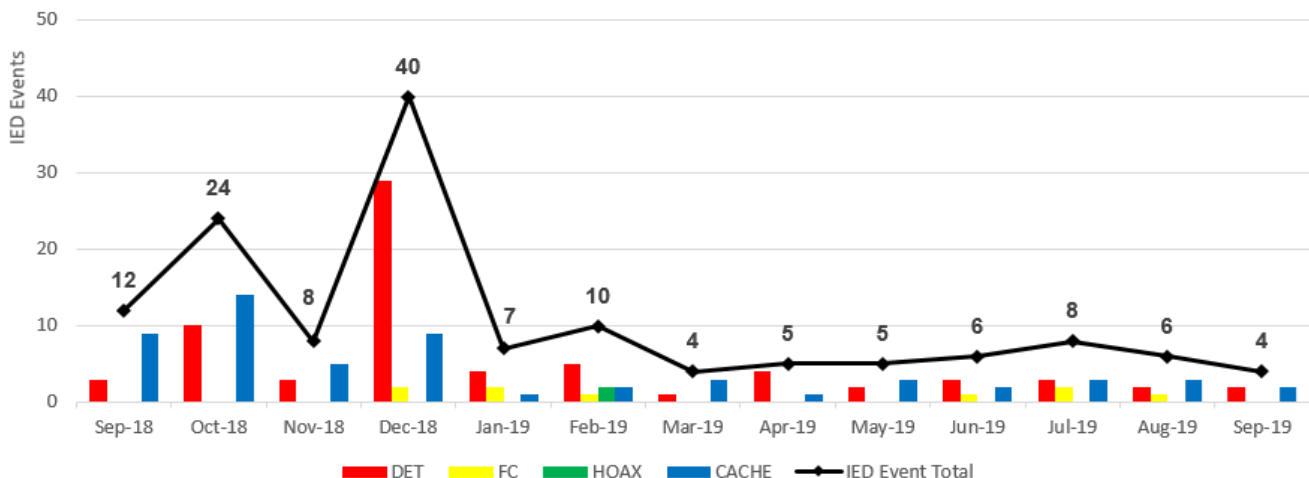
On 1 September, police recovered 13 crude IEDs from the roof of an outhouse at a mosque in Barisal. The janitor found a bucket with the IEDs stored in sand. The IEDs were wrapped in black tape or red tape, as is typically seen in Bangladesh crude IEDs. **Dhaka Tribune (9/1/19)**

On 23 September, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) personnel arrested two suspects (another escaped) and recovered at least three IEDs and detonated five others in a raid on two Neo-JMB buildings in Narayanganj, south of Dhaka. The cache also contained chemicals and IED components, as well as suicide vest materials and toy rifles that police believed to be the ones used as props in an August 2019 pro-ISIS propaganda video. Police believe the cache location was likely where Neo-JMB made the propaganda film. One of the arrested suspects confessed to previous IED attacks in Dhaka in 2019. **World News (9/24/19)**

On 30 September, an unidentified perpetrator emplaced an RCIED hidden in a bag of bananas in the Awami League office in Khulna City then fled. The RCIED detonated a few minutes later, after the office had closed for the day, causing only minor property damage. Police found remote circuitry and remains of a battery, connector, a portable gas cylinder and tape from the detonated RCIED, and noted similarities to the five other IED attacks in Bangladesh since April 2019. Immediately after the detonation, ISIS claimed responsibility, following a pattern of claims for attacks that Bangladeshi officials believe Neo-JMB conducted. **Daily Star (10/2/19)**

The overall number of IED detonations remained low in September as anti-terrorism forces continued to pursue leads and conduct raids at Neo-Jama'atul Mujhideen Bangladesh (Neo-JMB) hide sites. On 22 and 23 SEP 2019, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) police unit arrested a Neo-JMB cell member who revealed the location of an IED fabrication facility in Narayanganj area south of Dhaka. CTTC conducted a raid on two buildings there a few hours later, which disrupted a major IED production facility where Neo-JMB operatives had likely made the IEDs used to target police since April 2019. The CTTC Chief stated that the five-member JMB cell had a pattern of targeting police in evening hours, at the end of the month, and in locations they reconnoitered to determine police schedules. Neo-JMB members like the ones arrested in September are often engineers who are still learning how to make IEDs and RCIEDs by trial and error. The CTTC believed that the next attack was planned for the end of September and that the 23 September raid disrupted that attack.

Bangladesh IED Activity September 2018-September 2019



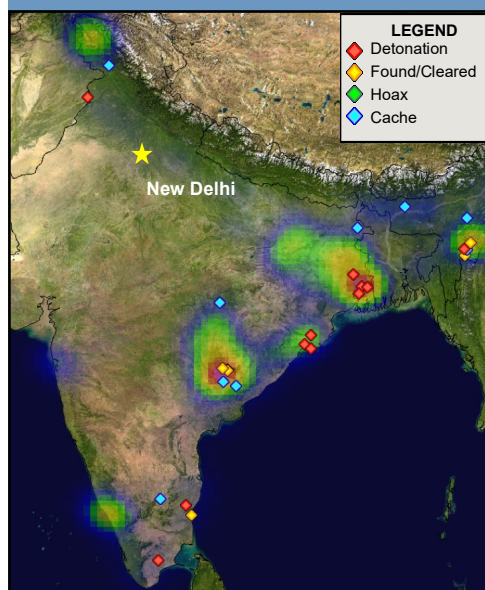
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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India

Total IED Events: 31 Detonation: 13 Found/Cleared: 6 Hoax: 0 Cache: 12

Total Casualties: 12 CIV KIA: 1 CIV WIA: 7 PMG KIA: 0 PMG WIA: 4

September
2019

On 4 September, a premature detonation occurred in a field in Tarn Taran District, Punjab State killing two people and injuring one. The suspects were attempting to make a crude bomb using a mixture of chemicals in a bottle that exploded while creating the explosive. Upon further investigation, the event led authorities to four Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) terrorists who received delivery of weapons from drones originating in Pakistan. **Tribune India (9/6/19)** **Times Now News (10/2/19)**

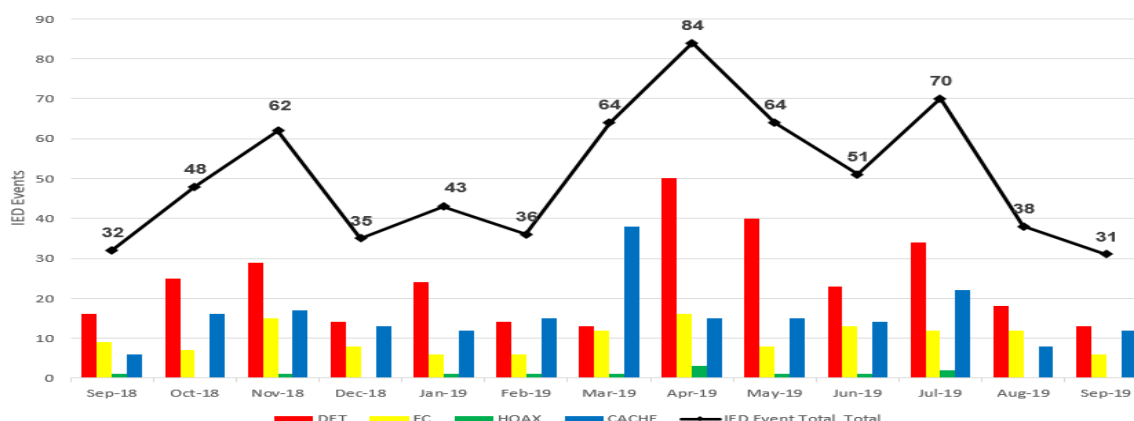
On 24 September, National Intelligence Agency (NIA) officers recovered a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) IED cache in Electronic City, Bengaluru City. The NIA officers obtained information on the location of the cache following the interrogation of a detained JMB suspect apprehended on 19 September. The IED cache consisted of two cuboid shaped batteries wrapped with plastic tape and electrical wire, one capacitor, three switches, one micro lithium cell, a plastic box containing a black colored chemical wrapped in white paper, identity cards, a rental agreement, handwritten letters and one digital camera. Additionally, NIA officers recovered another IED cache based on the detained JMB member's information in Krishnagiri Hill, Krishnagiri District. The IED cache consisted of explosive materials, eight 1.5 volt batteries, a hollow cylindrical carton used for launching rocket shells and pieces of electrical wire. **Business Standard (9/24/19)** **Deccan Herald (9/24/19)**

On 28 September, security forces found and cleared a daisy-chained IED potentially targeting VIPs or security forces in Metapal-Katekalyan Village. The two devices, each weighing approximately 30kg, were wired together in a way that both devices would detonate simultaneously if triggered. The devices were likely planted on the culvert of a Metapal-Katekalyan village road due to recent by-polls that occurred in Dantewada. Several leaders, including by-poll candidates, ministers and ex-ministers, traveled to Katekalyan using the same route, making it an ideal location to target these individuals. **India Today (9/29/19)** **Daily Pioneer (9/29/19)**

In September, IED activity slightly decreased across India, including Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. In the Red Corridor region, IED activity remained at a similar level as the previous month. In West Bengal, IED attacks continued to decrease compared to last month and remain at their lowest point since the general election in May. The threat of increased IED attacks in Jammu and Kashmir remain due to India's revocation of article 370, the constitutional article which provided special semi-autonomy to the state. IED activity will likely increase during the month of October due to the upcoming annual holidays which includes Diwali and Durga Puja. Diwali, one of the most popular festivals, is a four to five day long festival of lights, and the Durga Puja is a ten-day festival paying homage to the Hindu goddess, Durga.

During the month of September, India observed an increased threat emanating from Pakistan. Pakistan is speculated to have conducted operations utilizing Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (sUAS) to supply arms and ammunition to terrorists to conduct terror attacks in Punjab. The threat of escalated VEO attacks along the Line of Control will persist as relations continue to degrade.

India IED Activity September 2018-September 2019



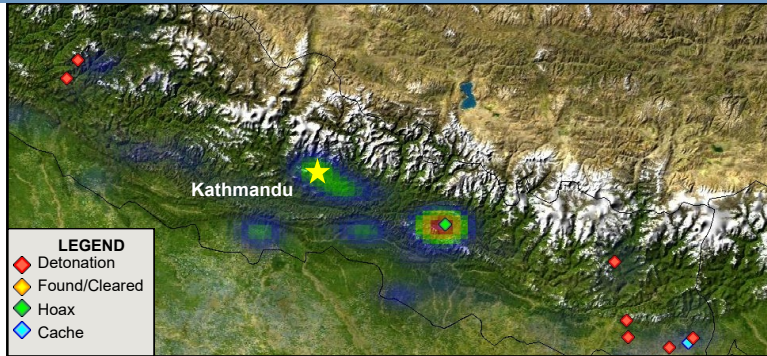
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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Nepal

Total IED Events: 10 Detonation: 7 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 2 Cache: 1
 Total Casualties: 0 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 PMG KIA: 0 PMG WIA: 0

September
2019



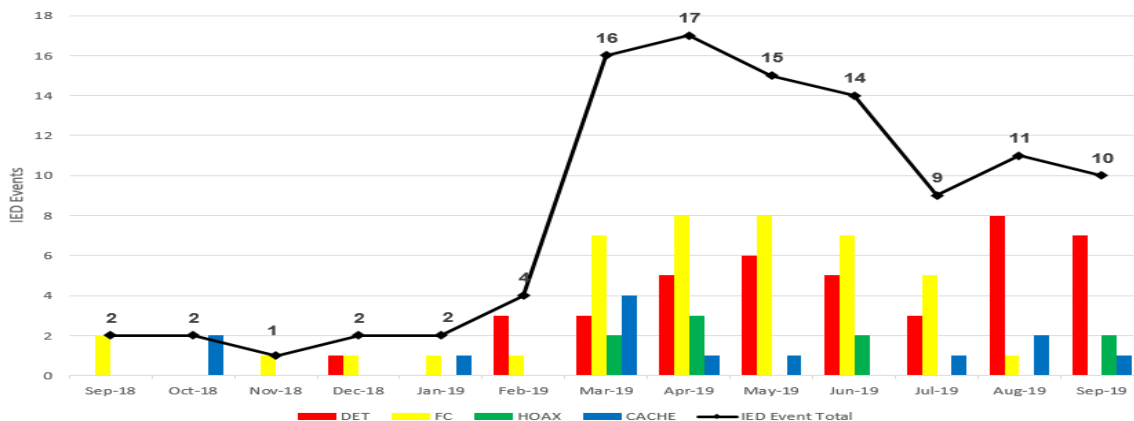
On 6 September, Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) Netra Bikram Chand splinter group members detonated two pressure cooker IEDs at schools in Sunsari District. The IED emplaced at Godavari College detonated just after midnight, damaging the gate. The IED at Delhi Public School also detonated just after midnight and damaged the outer wall and entryway and shattered windows. Police believed the reason behind targeting the schools was because they had refused to pay extortion money to the VEO. **Himalayan Times (9/6/19)**

On 8 September, CPN-M Chand splinter group members detonated a pressure cooker IED at the main gate of the Sahara Nepal Saving and Credit Cooperative Society Limited in Jhapa District, causing property damage to the gate, guard room, and windows. Security guards spotted the IED before it detonated and called the Nepal Army to investigate, but the IED detonated before they arrived. **Himalayan Times (9/10/19)**

On 20 September, Nepal Army bomb disposal personnel removed two hoax devices from the Pashupatinath Temple Complex in Kathmandu. The devices were placed at the entrance to the main temple and at another temple in the complex but across the adjacent river. This is one of the oldest and most visited temples in Nepal, where thousands of devotees and tourists daily visit the river and temple complex. No group claimed responsibility for the hoax threat. **The Dispatch (9/21/19)**

IED activity remained consistent since the Nepal Prime minister banned the splinter group in March and called for their arrests. Hundreds of CPN-M splinter group personnel have been arrested in the last few months, but the VEO members continue to target public venues like schools and rural government offices with IEDs and arson attacks. Although no group claimed responsibility for the hoax devices placed at the Pashupatinath Temple Complex, this IED threat also fits the CPN-M Chand splinter group modus operandi of targeting public venues. Police are still trying to determine membership levels, the amount of resources, explosives, and capabilities of the CPN-M Chand splinter group, but one indicator of their resources is the large cache of explosives (205 packets of unspecified explosive materials) police found at a house in Jhapa District in late September. Police had arrested several CPN-M Chand splinter group leaders which led to discovery of the largest explosives cache found since October 2018.

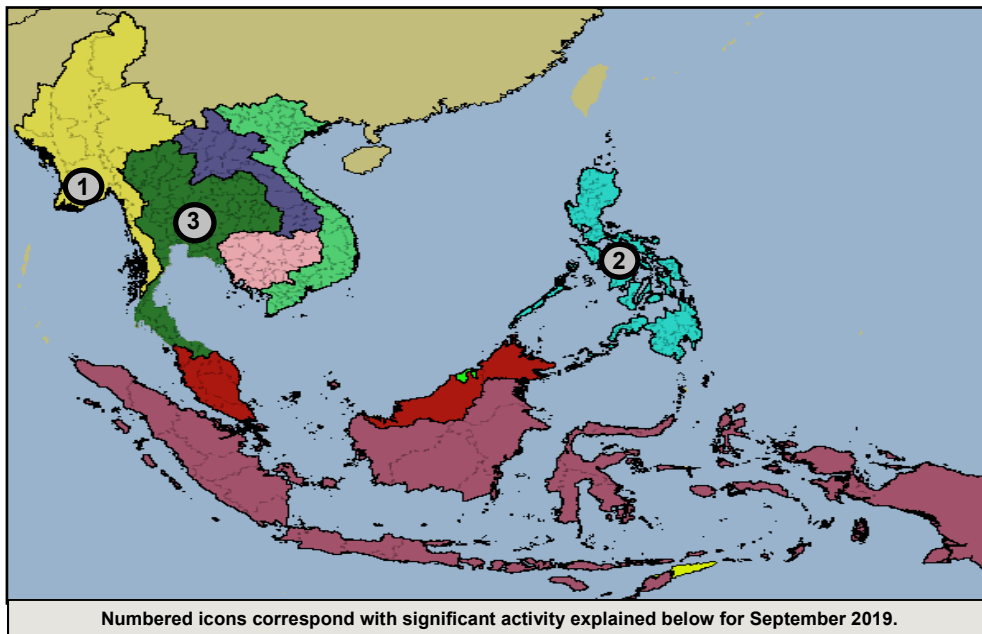
Nepal IED Activity September 2018-September 2019



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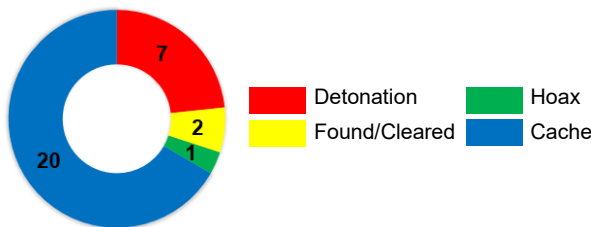
Southeast Asia Highlights



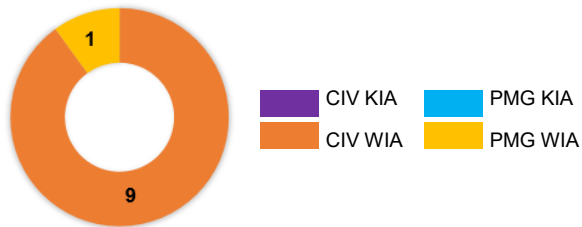
Southeast Asia September Executive Summary

IED activity decreased in September from the previous month (41 events). In the Philippines, IED activity increased from August (20 events versus 16 events). Despite this increase, IED casualty rates significantly decreased from August (17 casualties versus eight casualties). In Thailand, IED activity increased (21 events in September compared to six events in August) and IED casualties decreased from 11 casualties in August to none in September.

Southeast Asia IED Events
September 2019



Southeast Asia Casualties
September 2019



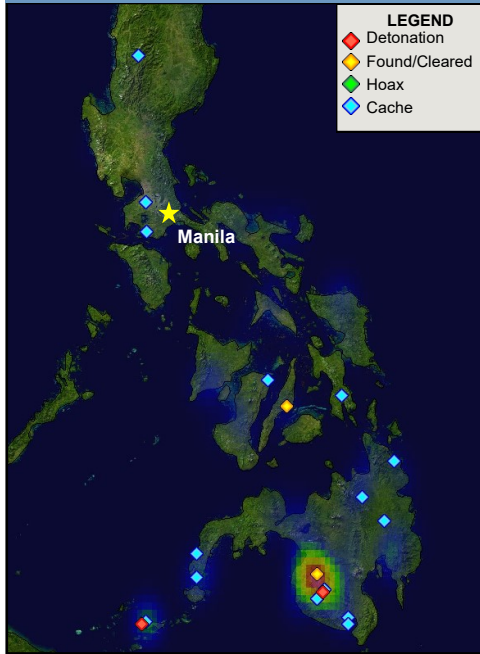
Southeast Asia September Significant Activity

- ① A classified letter circulated on social media raised security concerns regarding potential bomb attacks targeting government buildings by the Arakan Army (AA), Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Chin National Front, and Karen National Union. All the ethnic armed groups denied the letter and a KIA spokesman stated the memo could affect the on-going peace efforts between Burmese forces and ethnic armed groups. **RFA (9/25/19)**
- ② On 7 September, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and other government officials gathered in Simuay, Maguindanao, for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) decommissioning ceremony. The ceremony marks the beginning of the second phase of the MILF's decommissioning, which will see 12,000 of its soldiers disarmed by early 2020, or 30% of their troops. The peace deal between the Government of the Philippines and the MILF required complete decommissioning (disarmament) as part of the compromise for semi-autonomous governance of the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). A third and fourth phase of the decommissioning process will see all 40,000 of their troops disarmed by 2022, the year Duterte's term ends. **Eurasia Review (9/8/2019) Minda News (9/7/2019)**
- ③ On 4 September, the Corrections Department announced the early release of Sondhi Limthongkul, the founder of the People's Alliance for Democracy, also referred to as the Yellow Shirts from prison. Recently pardoned from his crime by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, Sondhi's initial 20-year sentence occurred in 2016 due to filing a fraudulent financial report. In 2006, Sondhi campaigned for Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's removal from office which drew popular support and ultimately led to the military coup in September 2006. **Bangkok Post (9/4/19) Macau Daily (9/5/19)**

Philippines

Total IED Events: 20 Detonation: 2 Found/Cleared: 2 Hoax: 0 Cache: 16

Total Casualties: 8 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 7 PMG KIA: 0 PMG WIA: 1

September
2019

On 7 September, an IED detonated against civilians along a busy roadside resulting in eight injuries in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat. Suspected Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) emplaced the IED near a motorcycle parked at a motorcycle terminal.

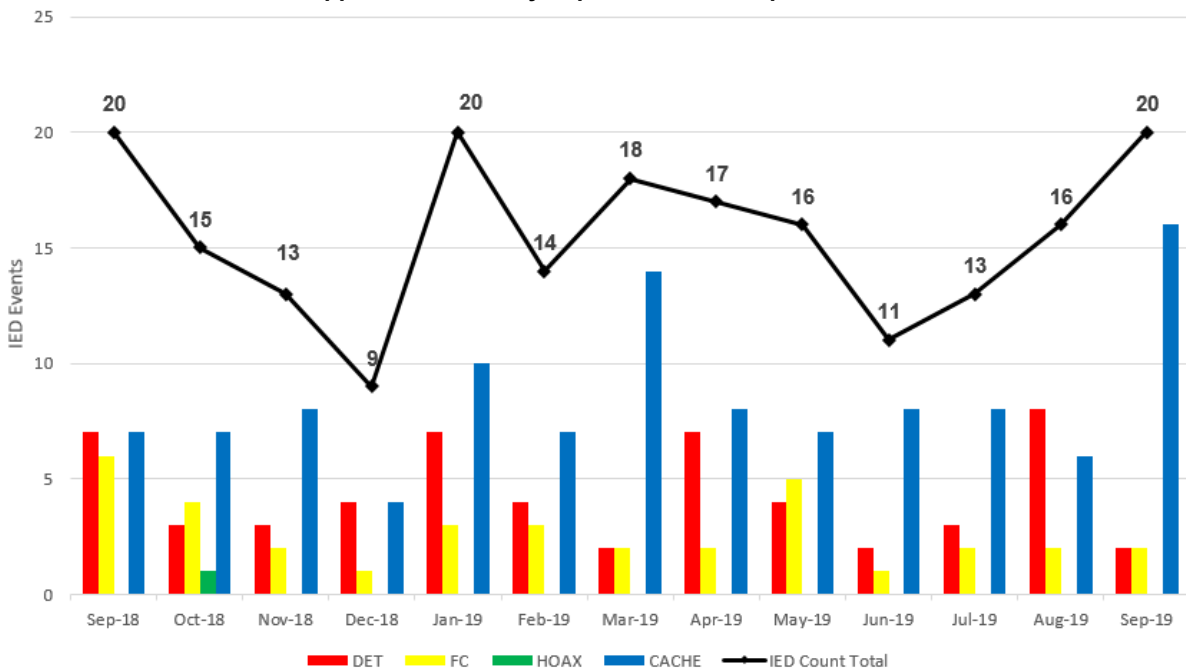
Rappler (9/9/2019), Manila Standard (9/7/2019), Manila Bulletin (9/7/2019)

On 8 September, a female suicide bomber detonated a PBIED at an Army checkpoint in Indanan, Sulu, resulting in the death of the suicide bomber. **(See Incident Highlight).**

On 24 September, security forces seized a cache of IED materials, weapons, and ammunition from four suspects at a residence in Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat, resulting in their arrest. The detained suspects are assessed to be members of BIFF and allegedly linked to the 7 September 2019 motorcycle bomb claimed by a pro-Islamic State (ISIS) BIFF faction. **Manila Times (9/24/19)**

IED activity for this month increased compared to the last few months, primarily due to cache finds by security forces and civilian turn-ins. Spikes of IED activity are attributed to detonations in the early part of the month and cache finds conducted toward the end of month. IED events linked to the New People's Army (NPA) experienced small arms fire in majority of the cache related finds. The BIFF attributed motorcycle bomb detonated on the same day as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) decommissioning ceremony held by the Philippine President in Simuay, Maguindanao.

Philippines IED Activity September 2018-September 2019



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

[Return to first page](#)

Thailand

Total IED Events: 3 Detonation: 2 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 1 Cache: 0

Total Casualties: 0 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 PMG KIA: 0 PMG WIA: 0

September
2019

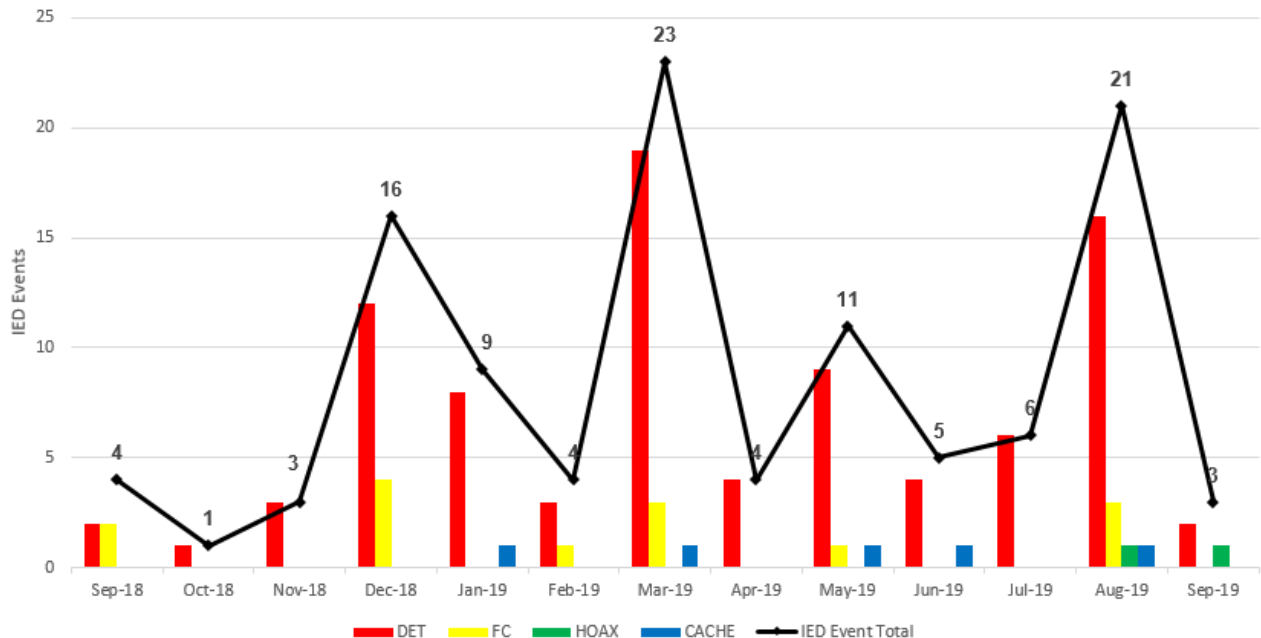
On 16 September, suspected insurgents detonated an IED along a road targeting a motorcycle convoy in Khok Pho, Pattani. After detonating the IED, insurgents opened fire at the victims, killing two village defense volunteers. **Benar News (9/19/19)**

On 19 September, officials recovered a hoax device following a robbery at a jewelry store in Bang Phli, Samut Prakan. The robber, who was dressed as a postman from the Thailand Post, threatened to use the hoax device to carry out his robbery. The hoax device consisted of a delivery box with a rock on the inside and protruding wires on the outside. **Bangkok Post (9/19/19) Thai Residents (9/20/19)**

On 24 September, a suspect on a motorcycle threw a ping pong IED at a durian shop in Muang, Samut Prakan. The device landed on the road instead and did not cause any damage or casualties. In Thailand, "ping pong bombs" are commonly understood to be small timed IEDs, which can range from the size of a ping pong to a tennis ball, and use a time fuse switch. They are similar to an M-80 firecracker, but used frequently by hooligans/students to harass others. **Asia One (9/25/19)**

IED activity in Thailand decreased 86% in September from last month likely due to unfavorable weather conditions in the Deep South. However, locals and security forces experienced renewed violence at the end of the month in a series of clashes involving small arms engagements with insurgents.

Thailand IED Activity September 2018-September 2019



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

[Return to first page](#)

Burma

Total IED Events: 4 Detonation: 1 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 0 Cache: 3

September

Total Casualties: 0 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 PMG KIA: 0 PMG WIA: 0

2019



On 10 September, Mandalay Region Police discovered a cache of explosive material at a residence in Chanmyathazi, Mandalay, leading to the arrest of four suspected Arakan Army (AA) members. The cache contained 40 satellite phones, 30 telescopes, 25 GPS devices, 28 packets of gunpowder, 1,000 detonators, and five bags of white gunpowder. **Eleven Myanmar (9/11/19) Irrawaddy (9/11/19)**

On 16 September, AA members carried out a complex attack targeting a Burmese military convoy traveling to Min Zee Chaung village, Phonnagyun, Rakhine by detonating three IEDs and attacking with small arms fire. It is not clear if the Burmese military suffered any casualties from the attack, but the clash caused 800 villagers to flee. **BNI (9/19/19)**

On 19 September, Burmese military officials entered the residence of a Rakhine woman and discovered a cache of improvised explosives in Taung Oo, Bago. The cache contained four IEDs. **RFA (9/20/19)**

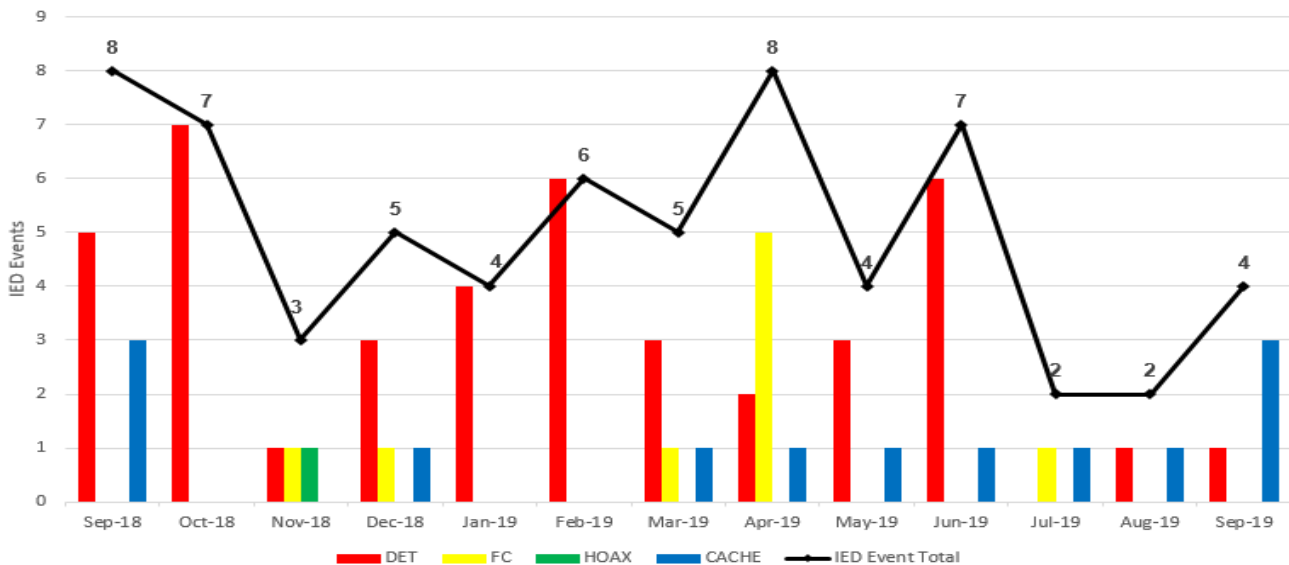
On 23 September, a search team of police, military, and a village administrator recovered an IED at a residence in Rathedaung, Rakhine. **BNI (9/25/19)**

Burma's IED activity in September remained relatively stable with the majority of events being caches discovered.

Indian intelligence agencies identified a new TTP indicating the Arakan Army (AA) is using Bluetooth and Wi-Fi technology to initiate landmines. If accurate, this TTP illustrates the development and advancement of IED technology amongst Burma's VEOs.

Hostilities continued as ethnic armed groups threatened to carry out bomb attacks in Naypyidaw, Rangoon and Mandalay during the month of October. **(See SEA Highlights)** With security deteriorating overall, it is likely allied ethnic armed groups such as the AA, Ta'ang National Liberation Army, and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, also known as the Brotherhood Alliance, will continue to carry out complex coordinated attacks against security forces in Rakhine and Shan States in the wake of ceasefire negotiations.

Burma IED Activity September 2018-September 2019



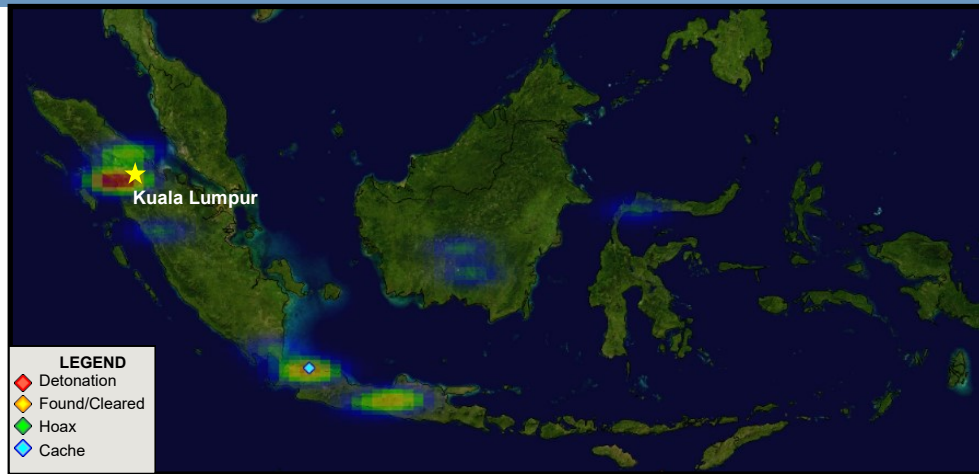
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

[Return to first page](#)

Indonesia

Total IED Events: 1 Detonation: 0 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 0 Cache: 1

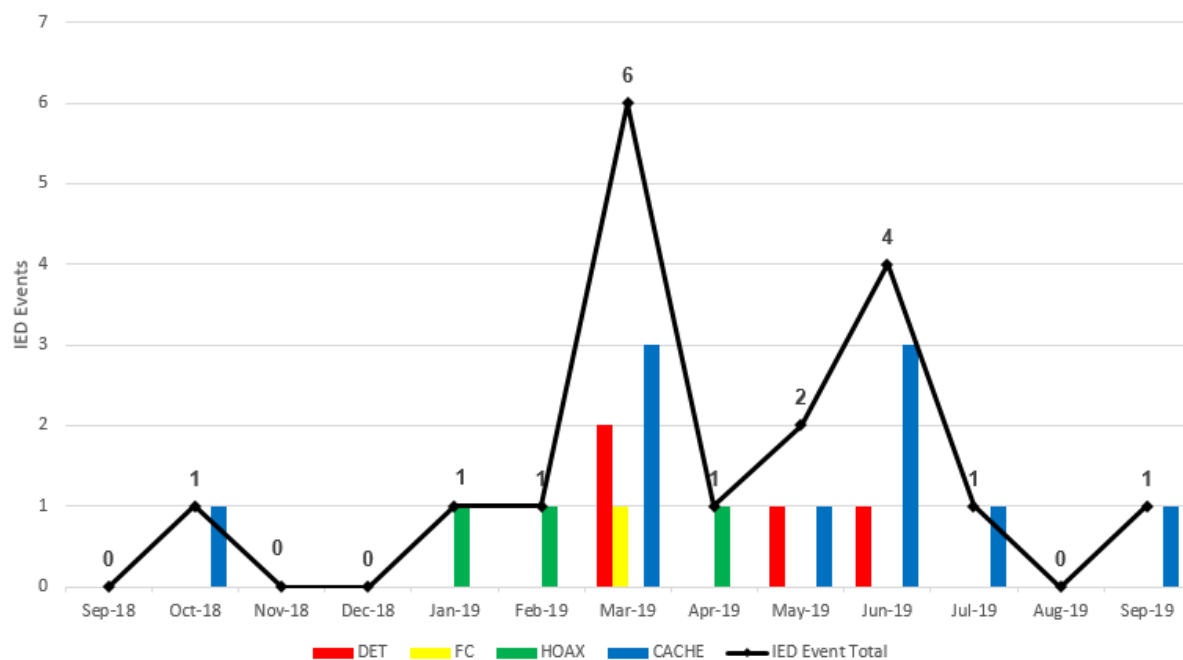
Total Casualties: 0 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 PMG KIA: 0 PMG WIA: 0

September
2019

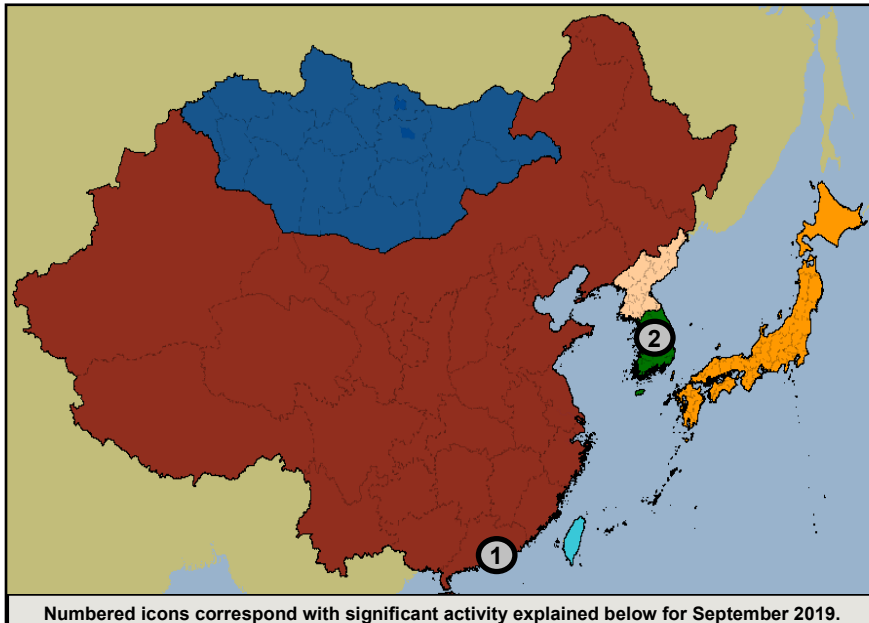
On 23 September, Indonesian police found and cleared an IED cache after raiding the residence of a Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) militant in Semper Barat Village, Cilincing, North Jakarta. The cache contained a completed IED consisting of 500-grams (17-ounces) of triacetone triperoxide (TATP), various bomb-making materials, the suspect's suicide letter, weapons, and an ISIS flag. Police claim the suspect, identified as Muhammad Arshad, was planning a PBIED attack on an unspecified police station in the capital of Jakarta. Detachment 88 arrested eight other suspected militants across Java who were part of a JAD cell and linked to Arshad, to include the cell leader Fazri Pahlawan (alias Abu Zee Ghurobah). **Associated Press News (9/23/19)** **TribunSolo News (9/23/19)** **The Straits Times (9/23/19)**

The IED incident this month remains consistent with past events for Indonesia. Indonesian authorities remain operationally focused on disrupting recurring JAD militant plots to attack Indonesian police targets.

Indonesia IED Activity September 2018-September 2019



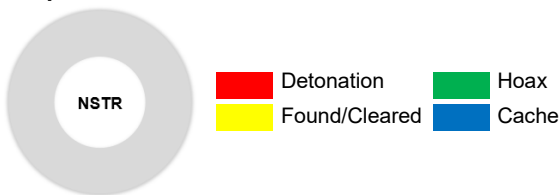
Northeast Asia Highlights



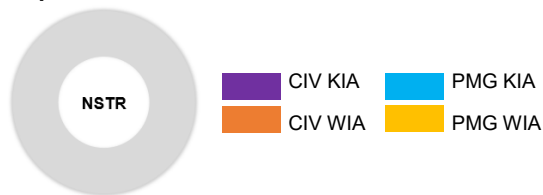
Northeast Asia September Executive Summary

There were no IED events in China this month, compared to one in August.

Northeast Asia IED Events September 2019



Northeast Asia Casualties September 2019



Northeast Asia September Significant Activity

- ① Google's Project Zero cyber security team discovered a handful of websites that were surreptitiously injecting software onto iPhone, Android, and Windows cell phones. This software sent photo libraries, GPS information, and message contents to IP addresses associated with China. While the websites injected this software indiscriminately to any phone which visited, experts at Tech Crunch and Forbes have claimed that Uyghurs living abroad were the likely targets considering the compromised websites included popular Uyghur news sites and learning resources like the online Uyghur Academy. Uyghurs are a primarily Muslim and heavily-surveilled minority living in China's Xinjiang region. Chinese authorities have detained somewhere between 1 and 2 million Uyghur people in prison camps, describing it as a counterterrorism measure. **Business Insider (9/1/19)**
- ② On 28 September, an explosion and fire that spread across two vessels in the commercial dock of Usan in South Korea injured 10 people. The explosion occurred on the oil tanker Stolt Groenland, with fire spreading to another oil tanker, the Bow Dalian. Both vessels were in dock for repair, so damage to the oil facilities at the port is minimal. The Russian vice-consul in South Korea remarked, "Obviously something in the cargo caused the explosion and the fire." The South Korean coast guard continues to investigate the cause of the explosion. **Reuters (9/28/19)**

Appendix A

South Asia

Bangladesh		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	0	0	18	20
	Year	215	24	2	369	610
Event Count	Month	2	0	0	2	4
	Year	71	9	2	57	139

India		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	44	7	0	12	63
	Year	544	535	17	95	2001
Event Count	Month	13	6	0	12	31
	Year	316	130	12	204	662

Nepal		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	7	0	2	0	9
	Year	64	47	10	9	130
Event Count	Month	7	0	2	1	10
	Year	41	42	10	13	106

Sri Lanka		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	16	1	1	34	52
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	2	2
	Year	11	1	1	25	38

Southeast Asia

Philippines		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	4	0	11	17
	Year	58	75	1	137	271
Event Count	Month	2	2	0	16	20
	Year	56	35	1	110	202

Thailand		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	0	1	0	3
	Year	106	39	3	1	149
Event Count	Month	2	0	1	0	3
	Year	89	14	2	5	110

Burma		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	3	0	0	5	8
	Year	75	16	4	54	149
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	3	4
	Year	45	10	1	13	69

Indonesia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	4	3	3	27	37
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	4	1	3	10	18

Appendix A

Southeast Asia Cont.

Malaysia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	5	0	1	8	14
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	5	0	1	3	9

Vietnam		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	1	10	0	0	11
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	1	1	0	0	2

Northeast Asia

China		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	0	1	1	7
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	0	1	4	10

Japan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	0	1
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	0	1

South Korea		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	1	0	1
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	1	0	1

Taiwan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	1	2
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	1	2

IED Calendar

The IED calendar was established to help our audience maintain awareness of events, such as anniversaries of major attacks, or political, religious or cultural events that often coincide (or can potentially coincide) with a spike in IED events.

1 SEP 2007 (MMR): Anniversary of Saffron Revolution

9 SEP 2004 (IDN): Anniversary of Australian Embassy Bombing

25 SEP 2002 (IND): Akshardham Temple Attack

1 OCT 2005 (IDN): Bali attack anniversary

23 OCT 2017 (PHL):

Marawi City re-taken by Armed Forces of the Philippines from ISIS-P

24 OCT 2002 (THA): Tak Bai Incident

27 OCT (IND): Diwali

16 NOV (LKA): Presidential Elections

21 NOV 2006 (NPL): Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord ending the civil war

23 NOV 2009 (PHL): Maguindanao Massacre

26 NOV 2008 (IND): Mumbai attack



About the APCFC

The Asia-Pacific C-IED Fusion Center is the premier center for irregular warfare analysis in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The center develops and synchronizes C-IED and EOD programs and regional engagements. The center resources USARAPC C-IED training to ensure U.S., Allied, and Partner Nations survivability.

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
September 2019	1 MMR	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9 IDN	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25 IDN	26	27	28
	29	30	1 IDN	2	3	4	5
October 2019	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23 PHL	24 THA	25	26
	27 IND	28	29	30	31	1	2
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
November 2019	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16 LKA	17	18
	19	20	21 NPL	22	23 PHL	24	25
	26 IND	27	28	29	30		

IND – India IDN – Indonesia MMR – Burma LKA – Sri Lanka NPL – Nepal PHL – Philippines
THA – Thailand WW – Worldwide

Common Terms and Acronyms

AN – Ammonium Nitrate
 ANFO – Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil
 ARMM – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 CIV – Civilian
 CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
 COIN – Counter-insurgency
 CWIED – Command Wire IED
 DTMF – Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency
 EFP – Explosively Formed Projectile
 EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal
 F/C – Found & Cleared
 HME – Homemade Explosives
 IDF – Indirect Fire
 IED – Improvised Explosive Device
 IrW – Irregular Warfare
 KFR – Kidnap for Ransom
 KIA – Killed in Action
 LOC – Line of Communication
 LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas
 MSR – Main Supply Routes
 NFI – No Further Information
 NSTR – Nothing Significant To Report
 PBA – Post Blast Analysis
 PBIED – Personnel Borne (Suicide Bomb) IED
 PCB – Printed Circuit Board
 PMG – Police, Military, Government
 PN – Partner Nation
 PPIED – Pressure Plate IED
 QRF – Quick Response Force

RCIED – Radio Controlled IED
 RCP – Route Clearance Patrols
 RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade
 SA – South Asia
 SAF – Small Arms Fire
 SEA – Southeast Asia
 SVBIED – Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
 TATP – Triacetone Triperoxide
 TNT – Trinitrotoluene (C₇H₅N₃O₆)
 TTP – Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
 UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
 VBIED – Vehicle Borne IED
 VEO – Violent Extremist Organization
 VOIED – Victim Operated IED
 WIA – Wounded in Action

Terms:

Terrorism—the unlawful use of violence or threat of violence to instill fear and coerce governments or societies. Terrorism is often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs and committed in the pursuit of goals that are usually political.
Insurgency—An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through use of subversion and armed conflict.
Separatism — the desire by a group of people within a country to separate from the rest of the country and form their own government.

Governments, Groups and Organizations

South Asia

India

BSF – Border Security Forces
 CPI-M – Communist Party of India (Maoist)
 CRPF – Central Reserve Police Force
 HM – Hizb-ul-Mujahideen
 IM – Indian Mujahideen
 JeM – Jaish-e-Mohammed
 ULFA – United Liberation Front of Assam

Nepal

CPN-M – Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
 JTMM – Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha

Bangladesh

BNP – Bangladesh National Party
 HUJI-B – Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami Bangladesh
 JIB – Jemaat-e-Islami Bangladesh
 JMB – Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh
 JMJB – Jama'atul Muslim Janta Bangladesh
 RAB – Rapid Action Battalion

Sri Lanka

JMI – Jamathei Millathu Ibraheem
 NTJ – National Thowheed Jama'ath

Southeast Asia

Burma

AA - Arakan Army
 ARSA—Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
 KIA – Kachin Independence Army
 UWSA – United Wa State Army

Thailand

BRN-C – Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate
 RKK – Runda Kumpulan Kecil

Philippines

ASG – Abu Sayyaf Group
 BIFF – Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
 CPP – Communist Party of the Philippines
 MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front
 NPA – New People's Army
 PNP – Philippine National Police

Indonesia

JAD – Jamaah Ansharut Daulah
 JAT – Jamaah Ansharout Tauhid
 JI – Jamaah Islamiya
 POLRI – Indonesian National Police

Other Groups/Organizations

ISI – Inter-Services Intelligence (Pakistan)
 ISIS – Islamic State of Iraq ash Sham
 LeT – Lashkar-e Tayyiba